

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

30p

# NOEL WARD

## TESTIMONIAL



Monday, 17th May, 1982 — Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

**WIGAN ATHLETIC -v- CHELSEA**

Tonight's match is sponsored by G.A. Fryer Ltd., Warrington

## **B. CONNOLLY ESTATE AGENT**

5 WIGAN ROAD,  
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD, WIGAN.  
Tel: ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD 715272

## **HALBA TRAVEL LTD.**

THE SQUARE, HALE BARNES, CHESHIRE  
Tel: 061-980 6071

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY WITH BOBBY CHARLTON

*FREDDIE PYE AND BOBBY CHARLTON WISH  
JOHN BROWN ALL THE BEST FOR HIS TESTIMONIAL  
AND FUTURE CAREER*

## **J.P. DUNN & CO. LTD.**

GADFA BUILDINGS, BOLTON ROAD,  
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD, WIGAN.  
**FLOOR COVERING SPECIALISTS**  
Tel: ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD 728070



## **NOEL WARD**

Good evening everyone,

Welcome to this, my  
testimonial game against  
Chelsea F.C.

I would like to thank the Board,  
manager and players of Wigan  
Athletic, the Board, manager and  
players of Chelsea. A special  
thank you to the members of my  
testimonial committee who have  
worked hard to organise  
everything.

I would also like to  
congratulate Larry Lloyd and his

players on promotion to Division  
Three.

When you are playing football  
you get called many things. I  
think Harold Ashurst of the  
Wigan Observer came up with a  
real beauty. We were playing  
Accrington Stanley in the semi-  
final of the Lancashire Senior  
Cup. I scored twice in a 4-3 win.  
Harold reporting on the match  
described my second goal as,  
Ward galloped into the box like a  
RAMPAGING OSTRICH. Thanks  
Harold!

Cheerio everyone and thank  
you for your attendance.

Noel Ward.



## RIBBLESDALE PLANT HIRE LTD.

STEPHENS WAY, GOOSE GREEN, WIGAN, WN3 6PH

Telephones: Wigan (0942) 494718 (3 lines)

JCB3C EXCAVATORS, POCLAIN 60CL EXCAVATORS (Hydraulic Hammers available) KOMATSU TRAXCAVATORS AND SWAMP DOZERS

Field and workshop repairs to all plant  
PLANT FOR SALE

## MICRON VIDEO CLUB

*Make any night a night at the movies*

COLOUR TELEVISION  
& VIDEO RENTAL

YOUR LOCAL  
TANDY STORE

THE ELECTRIC SHOP  
(MICRON)  
132-134 GIDLOW LANE  
WIGAN, LANCs.  
TEL: WIGAN 321818

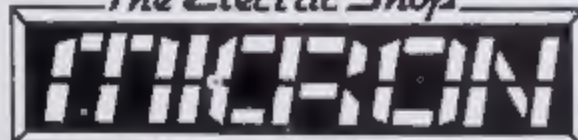


200 FILM TITLES  
FROM STOCK  
INCLUDING SPORT,  
ACTION, HORROR  
ETC.

RENTAL FROM  
£1.50/NIGHT

V.H.S. & PHILIPS  
FORMATS  
AVAILABLE

*The Electric Shop*



WIGAN'S PHILIPS SUPERDEALER

## Associated Tyre Specialists

OVER 400 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT U.K.

ELECTRONIC WHEEL BALANCING — VULCANISED REPAIRS  
BATTERIES — LATEST A.A. APPROVED WHEEL ALIGNMENT EQUIPMENT

98 WARRINGTON ROAD  
NEWTOWN, WIGAN  
Tel. 42017-42442

MARKET STREET  
STANDISH, WIGAN  
Tel. 423146 - 423732

## ON BEHALF OF WIGAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH  
NOEL ALL THE BEST  
FOR THE FUTURE

FREDDIE PYE  
CHAIRMAN.

*IT'S SAD THAT SUCH A  
PROMISING CAREER  
SHOULD HAVE ENDED SO  
TRAGICALLY, BUT I AM  
SURE THAT NOEL HAS  
ENOUGH DETER-  
MINATION TO OVERCOME  
THESE SERIOUS SET-  
BACKS.*

*I SEND HIM EVERY GOOD  
WISH FOR THE FUTURE.*

LARRY LLOYD.

TRIUMPH ADLER ALPHATRONIC MICRO COMPUTERS  
SERVICE & SUPPLIES  
ELECTRONIC CASH REGISTERS  
(12 months guarantee — Parts and Labour)

## Wigan Business Equipment Limited

8 ORRELL ROAD, ORRELL.  
Telephone: WIGAN 212490

For Prompt and Expert Attention



*Service to existing machines  
Typewriters — Calculators  
Suppliers of Till Rolls  
Fort Knox Floor Safes*



FOR ALL YOUR OFFICE  
AND STATIONERY  
REQUIREMENTS



FOR YOUR SUMMER SPORT  
WHY NOT TRY

## SPEEDWAY RACING

at

ELLESMERE PORT SPEEDWAY

THORNTON ROAD STADIUM

ELLESMERE PORT

TEL: 051-355 2068



EVERY FRIDAY at 7.30 p.m.  
or Bank Holiday Sunday May 30th at 3 p.m.

A SPORT FOR ALL THE FAMILY  
WITH GOOD CROWD BEHAVIOUR

"IT'S MOTORWAY ALL THE WAY"

THE PROMOTERS OF  
ELLESMERE PORT SPEEDWAY WOULD  
LIKE TO CONGRATULATE  
WIGAN ATHLETIC ON THEIR SUCCESS  
THIS SEASON.

# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

NOEL WARD was one of Ian McNeill's first signings when he returned to the club in 1975 and to say he had mixed fortunes at Springfield Park is putting it mildly.

Out of the team and sometimes booed by the fans in early days, team captain in the Fourth Division, a trial with Chelsea with a view to being signed and, the highlight of all — inclusion in the Northern Ireland squad for an international match. Then came disaster. On that fateful day, September 1st, 1979, Noel broke his leg in a collision with Derek Showers against Portsmouth at Springfield Park and it was an injury that was to finish his career.

But it's fair to say that through it all — the good times and the bad, Noel never changed. In his early days, if he was bitter at the fans' reaction then he never showed it. And when the coin turned and Noel experienced success, he was the same, quiet, likeable Irishman.

He battled back in a bid to regain full fitness after his injury but after going so close on many occasions, he was finally forced to call it a day.

Noel Ward was desperately unlucky. The injury was bad enough as far, but coming when it did, just as the sun was beginning to shine on a very promising career indeed, was the cruellest blow of all.

Whenever I see Noel these days, I think of a conversation we once had on the team coach going to an away match.

It was just after Noel returned from Chelsea and during the conversation I remarked on the changes in circumstances while Noel had been at Wigan.

His reply couldn't have been more prophetic: "If I've learned one thing in this game it's to enjoy the good times, because when the bad times arrive they come with a vengeance."

Harold Ashurst, Wigan Observer.

## ECONO-MONEY TRANSPORT STARTS HERE!

### MOTOR CYCLES

★ VESPA ★ HONDA  
★ SUZUKI ★ YAMAHA

ALL AT TOP DISCOUNT — plus  
the best range of clothing and  
accessories in the area.  
HONDA 5 STAR SERVICE

### CYCLES

We Guarantee to sell all new  
Raleigh Cycles at a lower price than  
any advertised locally.  
Hundreds of Bikes — all at  
TOP DISCOUNT  
CHRISTMAS CLUB  
RALEIGH 5 STAR SERVICE

BEST IN THE NORTH WEST



ROGERSON'S

TWO SHOPS



92 GREENOUGH ST., WIGAN, Tel: 45953  
and Orrell Post, Wigan, Tel: 212221

ACCESS

VISA

JUNIOR Latics MAIN SPONSORS 1983





# WELCOME TO CHELSEA



## CHELSEA FOOTBALL CLUB — 1981-82.

Rear: (from left to right) Michael Nutton, Colin Lee, Colin Pates, Micky Droy, Paul Williams, Phil Driver, Paul Ward. Middle: Norman Medhurst (Head Trainer), Ron Stuart (Chief Scout), Peter Rhoades-Brown, Timmy Elmes, Gary Shivers, Bob Iles, Petar Borota, Mike Fillery, Gary Locke, Chris Hutchings, Mick Leach (Youth Team Coach), Eddie Franklin (Physiotherapist). Front: Ian McNeill (Assistant Manager), Graham Wilkins, Kevin Hales, Clive Walker, Dennis Rofe, Colin Viljoen, Ian Britton, John Bumstead, Alan Mayes, John Neal (Manager).

I FEEL very pleased to be able to pen a few lines for Noel and also able to help in bringing Chelsea to Springfield Park.

When I had chance to sign Noel on a free transfer from Aberdeen, I jumped at it, as all the reports regarding his play and character were excellent. It certainly worked out that way and Noel had a very big say in Wigan's entry into the Football League, with his captaining and play in the N.P.L. Obviously our first season in the Fourth Division was very important to us as we had to prove ourselves. This we did and none more than the "big fellow" himself, when we finished a creditable 6th in the division. His outstanding play brought him to the

verge of international recognition by being selected by Danny Blanchflower to join the Northern Ireland squad. Danny also fancied him going to Stamford Bridge.

It was a very sad day when Noel broke his leg against Portsmouth, because Wigan Athletic sadly missed his leadership and character. Unfortunately his injury proved to be very troublesome and in the end put paid to his career in football.

I would like to wish Noel and his wife Betty and their children all the very best in the future, and hope that a good cheque will go their way from tonight's match.

Ian McNeill.

## CHOLERTON

LIVERPOOL ROAD,  
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

NEWSPAPERS,  
MAGAZINES,  
CIGARETTES, TOBACCO  
CARDS & GIFTS  
DELIVERY SERVICE

## WIGAN TROPHY CENTRE

128 FROG LANE, WIGAN.

FOR ALL YOUR TROPHIES

SEE JOHN HITCHEN

Tel: WIGAN 41041



"I can't think  
of a better  
way to enjoy  
**GREENALL'S  
LOCAL  
BEERS**"

## Greenall's Local Beers

Always available in the Supporters' Club

**LOCAL  
ALES  
TASTED  
IN  
COMFORTABLE  
SURROUNDINGS**

AREA MANAGER  
FRANK FAIRHURST  
STANDISH 422606

FREE TRADE OFFICE  
WARRINGTON 51234

For Holidays and Travel contact —

## WORLD WIDE TRAVEL LIMITED

55-57 Mesnes Street, Wigan

I.A.T.A.

Telephone: WIGAN 41236 (5 lines)



## H.L. GORNER LTD

Mercedes Benz



**MAIN DEALER**

Quality Used Cars  
**Car & Van Hire  
Service**

**H.L. GORNER (CARS) LTD.**  
NICOL ROAD, ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

Tel: (0942) 717373



# The NOEL WARD Story



POST & CHRONICLE

IT'S always a great tragedy when a talented sportsman is struck down in his prime.

But in the case of Noel Ward the blow was doubly so. He had joined Scottish side Aberdeen from Northern Irish outfit Portadown and subsequently joined up with Ian McNeill on his return to Latics prior to the club gaining Football League status.

Noel quickly became a firm favourite and when Latics were admitted to the League he steered them through difficult days as Club skipper.

After one of his early league performances, against Doncaster Rovers, my former colleague Nick Duxbury wrote of Noel: "Centre half Ward, chameleon like in the way he repeatedly changed from stopper to striker, ruthlessly ruled the 'skies' above the Springfield Park turf."

"In the air he proved unbeatable and a terrific header which smashed against the crossbar would have made a more memorable goal than the rather scrappy 51st minute winner."

Noel showed his versatility later in the same season when he played half a friendly game with Dundee... in goal. He was beaten just the once — and then from the penalty spot.

Then came the recognition of his remarkable

rise to fame. Chelsea boss Danny Blanchflower, doubling as the Northern Ireland chief, invited Noel to Stamford Bridge for trials.

Impressed he was, but sadly Chelsea couldn't afford the cash to buy him. However, there was consolation for Noel in the shape of being called into the Northern Ireland squad.

That first cap eluded him and tragically early on, a season later, Noel's career was brought to a premature end when he broke his leg in a frantic encounter with Portsmouth at Springfield Park.

Noel battled for nigh on two years afterwards to try and regain his full fitness. In the end he had to admit defeat, he hung up his boots on medical advice and the game as a whole was a lot poorer for his absence.

Having lost touch with his trade, a fitter, Noel found himself unemployed, an ideal illustration of the ups and downs of a soccer star.

Happily, loyal Latics fans have banded together to run a Testimonial fund on his behalf and on a brighter note Noel's back among the football action... as manager of local league side Ashton Town.

Chris Gill.



POST & CHRONICLE

TONIGHT'S MATCH IS  
SPONSORED BY  
**G.A. FRYER LTD.**  
PAINTERS & DECORATORS  
212 MANCHESTER ROAD,  
WARRINGTON.  
Tel: Warrington 34651

*THE MATCH BALL HAS  
BEEN DONATED BY  
RONNIE CHARLTON &  
CARL DERBYSHIRE  
OF ORRELL.*

**THE WELLFIELD HOTEL**  
*GOOD LUCK NOEL IN YOUR TESTIMONIAL*  
From Barry, Maria and Customers  
Wellfield Road, Beech Hill, Wigan.

## Special offers to Latics Supporters Visit Paris at an unbeatable price!

On day one you journey to Dover by coach crossing by ferry to Calais.

Arriving at your hotel early afternoon you are free to relax, shop and prepare for a packed day two. On Saturday a sightseeing tour to all the famous Parisienne landmarks. Magical names to conjure with are — Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Arc de Triumph, and the Louvre. From lunch time you are free to do your own thing. The evening is free for you to sample the night life of Paris.

On day three you journey to the famous Palace of Versailles and Gardens, then return to Calais in time to catch the ferry to Dover, returning to your local pick-up point late evening.

### WHATS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- \* Coach travel from local pick-up point and return.
- \* Ferry crossing from Dover/Calais/Dover.
- \* Two nights bed and breakfast
- \* Sightseeing as outlined.

### NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- \* Single room subject to availability on application
- \* Any entrance fees
- \* Gratuities at clients discretion
- \* Insurance — optional at £5.90 per person — payable with deposit
- \* Surcharge if applicable

**LEAVING WIGAN 2300 hrs. ON JUNE 3rd.  
RETURN MIDNIGHT JUNE 6th.**

**SPECIAL SUPPORTERS PRICE £49**

**LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE  
FILL IN THE COUPON BELOW WITH £15 DEPOSIT OR  
SEND S.A.E. FOR FULL DETAILS.**

PLEASE RESERVE ME ..... PLACES ON THE PARIS TRIP  
JUNE 3rd AT THE SPECIAL PRIVILEGE PRICE OF £49.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... TEL. NO. ....

ENCLOSED FIND CHEQUE/P.O. VALUE £ ..... (£15 per person)

I REQUIRE TWIN ☐ DOUBLE ☐ SINGLE ☐ ACCOMMODATION

PLEASE FORWARD DETAILS OF FUTURE TRIPS .....



# CREATIVE WORLD TRAVEL

Sterling House, Warrington Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancs. Tel: (0942) 718001



## Wrightington Restaurant & Country Club



MOSS LANE, WRIGHTINGTON. Phone: Standish 426803  
FULL A LA CARTE LUNCH & DINNER

**SPECIAL LUNCH MENU TUESDAY TO FRIDAY — TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH**

**DINE & DANCE EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY UNTIL 1.30 a.m.**

See our private Swan Room for Wedding Parties and Business Meetings  
Hotel accommodation opening soon. Non members welcome

## SUPPLIERS TO WIGAN ATHLETIC

## OLIVER SOMERS

8 - 10 Mesnes Street, Wigan  
Tel: Wigan 42384

**UMBRO - ADMIRAL - BUKTA - ADIDAS - GOLA  
PUMA - PATRICK - AND ALL FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT  
AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNT PRICES TO CLUBS**

Stockist of a full range of Sports, Leisure, Cycling  
and Shooting Equipment

## T.H. BLEASDALE

INCOME TAX CONSULTANT  
70 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, WIGAN

**WISHES JOHN BROWN ALL THE BEST IN HIS NEW CAREER  
IN THE LICENSED TRADE AND WIGAN ATHLETIC GOOD LUCK  
IN THE THIRD DIVISION NEXT SEASON**



## BALL DONOR

Tonight's match ball is kindly donated by  
**RONNIE CHARLTON & CARL DERBYSHIRE**  
OF ORRELL.

# TEAM CHECK

## MATCH SPONSOR

Tonight's match is kindly sponsored by  
**G.A. FRYER LTD, Painters & Decorators,**  
212 MANCHESTER ROAD,  
WARRINGTON. Tel: Warr. (93) 34651



**WIGAN  
ATHLETIC**  
(Royal Blue & White Stripes)

- 1 Roy Tunks
  - 2 John McMahon
  - 3 David Glenn
  - 4 Alex Cribley
  - 5 Larry Lloyd
  - 6 Colin Methven
  - 7 Eamon O'Keefe
  - 8 Graham Barrow
  - 9 Les Bradd
  - 10 Peter Houghton
  - 11 Mark Wignall
- Subs: Jeff Wright,  
Mick Quinn.

## OFFICIALS

Referee:

**MR. PETER BURROWS**  
(Warrington)

### Linesmen:

Red Flag      Yellow Flag  
Mr. R. Heyes      Mr. N. Oakes  
(Ashton-in-Makerfield)      (Warrington)

## FOR YOUR RECORDS

H.T. SCORE: .....  
F.T. SCORE: .....  
ATTENDANCE: .....  
SCORERS .....  
LATICS: .....  
VISITORS: .....  
.....



**CHELSEA**  
(All Yellow)

- 1 Steve Francis
- 2 Graham Wilkins
- 3 Chris Hutchings
- 4 Denis Rofe
- 5 Colin Pates
- 6 Gary Chivers
- 7 Peter Rhoades-Brown
- 8 John Bumstead
- 9 Colin Lee
- 10 Clive Walker
- 11 Michael Fillery
- 12 Ian Britton and  
Paul Canoville